

EXPAND IN WISCONSIN

Thank you for considering Wisconsin for your expansion. We believe you will find Wisconsin an outstanding place to live and work. **Only Wisconsin** has been nationally recognized for both its manufacturing strength *and* its ideal family living environment (*Readers Digest and Industry Week, 1997*).

Here are a few advantages of expanding in Wisconsin:

- Wisconsin's skilled, productive workforce is its most important asset, according to national measures and poll after poll of state CEOs.
- With a balanced budget and a tradition of efficiency in government, Wisconsin is frequently recognized as a model of sound fiscal management. Favorable business tax policies include:
 - Property tax exemptions for manufacturing machinery and equipment, inventories, and pollution-control equipment; tax credits for energy used in manufacturing and for R & D.
 - 60-percent capital gains exclusion.
 - No inheritance and gift taxes.
- Wisconsin employers pay the lowest-allowable unemployment costs because our rates derive from a company's actual experience and because of the system's well-capitalized reserve fund.
- Wisconsin's pioneering workers' compensation system offers reasonable benefits, efficient service delivery, and low costs to employers. The Wisconsin system is frequently recognized as a national model.
- Wisconsin offers one-day shipping access to over one-third of the nation's population. In addition to widely-available air and rail service, the state offers a comprehensive network of toll-free, controlled-access highways. Already in place is a comprehensive, multi-modal transportation initiative that will enable the state to meet the transportation needs of business well into the next century.
- Because of Wisconsin's commitment to public-private partnerships, the state can help businesses fund expansions, start-ups, worker training initiatives, and technology initiatives. The state also offers a one-stop Permit Information Center that can identify, expedite, and resolve disputes concerning permits and licenses. Technical assistance is available for site selection, financial packaging, export initiatives, and a host of other business needs.
- Wisconsin's technical college system--the nation's first and finest--annually graduates over 4,500 industrial and engineering technicians. In partnership with the state's Department of Commerce, many of these campuses offer manufacturing assessments, quality improvement assistance, and worker training that is custom-tailored to company needs.

- The University of Wisconsin ranks second among publicly-funded universities for research and development funds, and offers a host of technology-transfer resources to business.
- Because of Wisconsin's commitment to quality education, the state's high school students outperform the U.S. average in mathematics and reading skills, and regularly record the nation's best college entrance exam scores. In 2004, Wisconsin high school seniors topped the nation in ACT scores for the 12th straight year.
- Wisconsin is quality living at an affordable price. Energy, health care, housing, and insurance costs are well below the national average.
- According to the FBI, Wisconsin's rates for total crime, violent crime, and property crime are among the lowest in the U.S.

**Call the Department of Commerce
at 1-800-HELP-BUSINESS (in-state)
or 608/266-1018 (out-of-state)
for immediate service and referral.**

TAKING CARE OF WISCONSIN BUSINESS.